

QUERIES & ANSWERS.

The Law in Virginia as to Certain School Matters.

EDUCATIONS IN THIS STATE IN 1895.

Belonging to the United States.

Of the United States Without License.

And S.—The Comets, Etc.

FARMVILLE, VA.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

These inform me what the standard weight of apples is per bushel, J. L. H.

The Code fixes the weight of dried apples at 28 pounds per bushel.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

Why not fix the West-End Market for an auditorium? There will be space enough to seat 8,000 people.

WEST END.

We refer this question to the Sub-Committee on Hall, of which the Hon. George L. Christian is chairman.

The Comets.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

Please publish the date on which the last comet was visible here. Very respectfully,

E. R. C.

Clouds have prevented observations of either Payer's or Swift's comet for several nights, but both are probably still visible with good glasses, though faint, the former extremely so.

MAUD S.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

Please tell me through your Query column, is Maud S. dead? If so, when did she die? A READER.

Maud S. is alive and well, and is 21 years old.

She is owned by Mr. Robert Bonner, of New York, and her record of 1884 is still the world's champion record to high-wheeled sulky.

To Keep Cider Sweet.

ROSCOEVERTE, W. VA.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

I noticed in the Dispatch a recipe to keep cider sweet, but lost the paper.

Please republish it. I. P. P.

Well, here it is: 2 ounces boracic acid, 1 ounce carbonate soda, 2 ounces salicylic acid, for forty gallons (one barrel).

Another way: One half pound white mustard seed tied in a bag large enough to put in the bung-hole.

These receipts have been furnished to us; we have not tested them.

A. M. Kelley.

CHICAGO.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

When I lived in your city the Mayor of the city was A. M. Kelley. He was, I understand, appointed to some position in Egypt by President Cleveland during his first term of office. What was that position. Does he hold it yet? Please answer in the Weekly Dispatch and oblige.

C. T. K.

He was appointed a judge of the International Court at Cairo, but has since been promoted to a judgeship of the appellate court of the same judiciary system, with headquarters at Alexandria, Egypt.

The Uster Gazette.

SMITHFIELD, VA.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

I have in my possession an old paper entitled "The Uster County Gazette," published by Samuel Freer & Son, Saturday, January 4, 1890. It gives an account of the death of George Washington, and also mentions several sketches of his life and gives other news of the certain days. I would like to know if the paper is of any value; if so, where I could dispose of it to the best advantage. Any information you could give me on the subject through your paper would be gladly received.

J. P.

If you have an original copy of the Gazette it may be worth a few dollars; but the odds are ten to one that you have only a reprint copy—a fair smile—of which tens of thousands of copies have been printed and sold at 10 cents per copy. Consult some dealer in old books and newspapers.

United States Islands.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

Please inform me through your paper how the United States came into possession of the Aleutian Islands (in Asia) and if they are under control of this government. Does the United States own any other islands than the Alaska and the Aleutian Islands? By so doing you will greatly oblige a life subscriber.

C. C. B.

By the treaty between the United States and Russia, of March 20, 1867, the latter Power ceded to the former certain territories in North America, which included the Aleutian Islands. The entire purchase price amounted to \$7,200,000 in gold.

Possibly some islands on the United States coast or in our bays and lakes have been ceded to the general government by the States for purposes of defense or for the maintenance of navy-yards, etc. We have made no special investigation along this line of inquiry.

Public-School Matters.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

1. Have the trustees in any county-school district the right to pass a law prohibiting any person holding a legal certificate from teaching in the public school?

2. Have they a right to pay a white teacher \$2 per month holding a second-grade certificate, and a colored teacher holding the same grade certificate \$2.75?

3. Have they the right to pay a teacher holding a third-grade certificate as much as a teacher holding a first-grade certificate?

By answering the above you will greatly oblige a SUBSCRIBER.

1. The law provides that all applicants for position as teachers must hold certificates of qualification. District boards select teachers from those holding licenses. A board may, of course, decline to employ a person holding a legal certificate satisfactory to the board.

2. The law makes no provision for paying teachers on the basis of the grade of certificate held. District boards fix schedules of salaries.

3. Answered above.

Sale of Butchers' Knives.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

I manufacture and sell butchers' knives. You will please inform me whether or not the Town Council of any incorporated town in the State of Virginia can prevent me from selling them, or any other class of goods of my own manufacture, unless I pay a license.

W. R. C.

As we understand the statute, if our correspondent has been assessed by the Commissioner of the Revenue with the capital employed by him in the manufacture of the implements he mentions and other implements (which capital is not less than \$50,000), and said tax has been paid, then he can sell these implements anywhere in the State by himself or agents, the certificate of the Treasurer of the county or corporation to whom the said tax on capital was paid that it has been paid being evidence of that fact.

Unless such certificate is shown the

proper officer of the county or corporation in which the implements are offered for sale, both State and corporation license must be obtained before they can be sold.

First Election After the War.

PERKINSVILLE, VA.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

Will you kindly inform me whether any election, either State or National, was held in Virginia during the year 1855, and if not when the first election was held in Virginia after the war.

SUBSCRIBER.

There was an election held in the city of Richmond on the 25th day of July, 1855, for municipal officers.

And, on the 12th day of October, 1855, an election was held here for member of Congress and members of the General Assembly of Virginia.

There was another election held here on the 23d day of November, 1855, for Commonwealth's Attorney O'Farrell and Johnson, who was elected to that office on the 25th day of July, 1855, having declined to qualify, at which election, in November, 1855, Littleton Tazewell was elected, but before he could qualify he died, and it is believed that another election to fill that office was held in the month of December of the same year (1855).

Dombey & Son.

RICHMOND, VA.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

These are the words of a very pretty song, paraphrasing a conversation between the Dombey children in Decker's "Dombey & Son." They used to be very popular, but are little known now. I have tried for some time to get the words, and only succeeded this summer through a lady friend, who found the song and music in an old music-book. I do not know who is the author of the paraphrase, and would be glad if in your Query column you would ask if some of your readers cannot give his name.

J. V.

"WHAT ARE THE WILD WAVES SAYING?"

What are the wild waves saying, Sister, the whole day long, That ever amid our playing I hear but the low lullaby song?

Not by the sea-side only, There it sounds wild and free, But at night, when 'tis dark and lonely, In dreams it is still with me.

Brother, I hear no singing, 'Tis but the rolling wave, Ever its lone course winging, Over some ocean cave;

'Tis but the noise of water Dashing against the rocks, Or a wind from some bleaker quarry Mingling with its roar.

Oh, no; it is something greater That speaks to the heart alone; 'Tis the voice of the great Creator Dwells in that mighty tone.

Yes, but the waves seem ever Singing the same old strain, And in my weak endeavor To guess what the surges sing;

What is that voice repeating Ever by night and day, Is it a friendly greeting, Or a warning that calls away?

Brother, the inland mountain, Hath it not voice and sound? Speaks not the dripping fountain As it bedews the rock below, E'en by the household fire?

Curtained and close and warm, Do not our voices mingle With those of the distant storm?

Oh, yes; but there's something greater That speaks to the heart alone— The voice of the great Creator Dwells in that mighty tone.

Process of Grafting.

TRENTVILLE, HALIFAX CO., VA.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

Please describe the process of grafting fruit-trees.

State the best season for grafting; the best thing to graft on; the kind of wax to use, and how long before transplanting the grafts.

W. C. B.

We suppose our correspondent means root-grafting, the most common sort.

The tools consist, first, of a sharp, thin-bladed knife, of which the best is made from the blade of an old scythe, ground to its proper form on a grindstone; second, a bench or table, placed in front of a light window, and on which the work is done; third, an apron, worn by the grafter, the two lower corners being hooked fast to two sharp nails on the near edge of the table for holding the scions while cutting them; fourth, strips of waxed paper about an inch wide, made by brushing over sheets of tissue, tough paper, a melted, well-stirred mixture of four parts of rosin, two of tallow, and one of beeswax; and then cut into strips when precisely at a proper degree of coldness to separate well by means of a knife, cutting upon a smooth board. A sufficient number of these for immediate use should be hung near enough to the stove which heats the room to keep the wax upon them about the consistency of butter on a summer day, so as to fit and adhere to the grafted root without melting and running.

The first operation is to cut up the grafts from the shoots or scions. It is performed by holding the scion in the left hand, the thicker end pointing towards the right hand, which holds the knife. Three strokes of the knife are required to cut and prepare each graft, and a rapid and skilful operator has done 112 in the manner described in five minutes. Each shoot is thus cut up while yet held in the left hand, and the grafts, as fast as they are severed, drop into the cavity of the apron, already described. The second operation is setting these grafts into the roots. Each root is held in the left hand, precisely as the scion has been, and the three cuts are given it to prepare it for the graft. The grafts having been placed directly under the operator's fingers, and in the right position, each one is successively taken and firmly fitted to the prepared root, and as soon as this is done, another cut of the knife, three inches lower down the root, severs it, and the root-graft is finished, and drops off obliquely on the table. Another sloping cut on the same root, and a slit for the tongue are quickly made, and another graft picked up and inserted, the root being held all the while in the left hand until worked up. The great point is to perform much with little handling. A single root will sometimes make but one graft, but more commonly two or three, and sometimes more. Each portion of root should be about three inches long, and the graft about five inches.

Root-grafting may be performed at any time during winter. The roots, when taken up in the autumn, should be well washed, the tops cut off, and the roots packed in boxes, with alternate layers of damp moss. Thrifty, one-year roots are better and more easily worked than two-year roots. Six-roots, or branches, should never be used. The scions may be kept in the same way. This is better than packing them in sand, which imports a grit to them and dulls the knife.

They should be set out in spring as soon as the soil is sufficiently dry and there is no further danger of its freezing severely. Special pains should be taken to make the grafts well about them. The tips of the grafts should project about half an inch above the surface.

It is difficult to give a novice a clear

idea of the operation of root-grafting without the employment of illustrations, which it is not convenient to use here.

Notice to Correspondents.

No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.

We cannot publish copyrighted songs and poems without the permission of the owner of the copyright.

This column is not an advertising medium. No query will receive attention the answer to which would necessitate the advertising of any person's business or wares.

Nor will any attention be given to long "strings" of questions. Every week numbers of correspondents ignore this rule of ours, and afterwards wonder why their queries are not answered.

Many queries are not answered because similar ones have been recently answered. We cannot undertake to ascertain the value of old coins. For that information write to some dealer in them.

We cannot undertake to answer queries by mail; we can only answer them through this column.

Address "Query Editor, Dispatch Office, Richmond, Va."

N. B. We do not read unsigned letters.

Book Notices.

ENGLISH LANDS, LETTERS, AND KINGS. Queen Anne and the Georges. By Donald G. Mitchell. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 317 pages. Price \$1.50.

"English Lands, Letters, and Kings" is the third volume, or rather, we should say, the third book, of the most charming series by Mr. Mitchell, the other two being "From Celt to Tudor" and "From Elizabeth to Anne." It is dedicated to Mrs. Grover Cleveland "for the courteous reception which, while yet an inmate of a college on the beautiful banks of Cayuga lake, she gave to some portions of the literary tale embodied in these pages," and is a succession of biographical and literary pictures, in which daintiness of touch and warmth of coloring find expression throughout.

Those who are satisfied with nothing short of the most accurate details and dry-as-dust critical analysis will find in the volume of authors who have passed away will not find their standard of the correct thing realized in "Lands, Letters, and Kings," but that class of readers who delight in sunshine, the finger of sympathy and sympathy in the history of the times. The several writers, commencing with Bishop Berkeley and including good old Dr. Isaac Watts, Young, Lady Mary Montagu, Pope, Richard B. Rieu, Milton, and the great poets, Gray, Samuel Johnson, Burke, Boswell, Gibbon, Hume, Collins, Sheridan, Crabbe, Cowper, Jane Austen, Burns, Rogers, Coleridge, Wordsworth, and Keats, are clearly connected, and the story the sovereigns of their period. Narrative, anecdote, and pleasant criticism are intermingled in most fascinating style. Most delightfully, as has been aptly said, does Mr. Mitchell refresh our memory upon our literary inheritance. He is master of the art of showing his own preferences without doing violence to the preferences of others. A fine example of his style is to be found in the review of his chapter on "Cowper's Poetry": "Critics have agreed that we shall not rank him among the great poets, but he comes nearer to their mark than anybody in his day. He is a poet of the old school; he is so tender; he is so natural. If, in his longer poems, there is sometimes a lack of last finish and an overplus of language, there is in his poetry a refinement and a billowy undulation of movement that have compensating charms. He loves nature as a boy loves his play; his humanities are awakened by all her voices. He not only feels the power of the painter's eye and hand, but he has a touch which steals deeper meaning and influences and transfers them into verse that flows softly and quietly as summer brooks, and speaks of the rhythm and the colors of the country cling to his words. There is no crazy whirl of epithets which would apply to a hundred poets, but clear, forceful epithets of simple language, such as 'the lifting over stretches of grass-green plain; marsh birds trailing their flight by sluggish rivers; boats dragged lumberingly up the river; the sunbeams in the water; the wakened snags; the great banks of willow wading through snags, or throwing shadows by morning, or counter-shadows by evening, over the flanks of low hills on which they stand in leafy plateaus, and for sounds far-off, church bells wakening solitudes with their tremulous bells and jangle; birds chasing the echoes of their own notes; the low, low, low of the thyme; cattle lowing in the meadows, or the bay of some bound-breaking full and clear and lost again—as he follows far off some cold trail among the hills.' The book abounds in writing of this character.

For sale by J. W. Randolph & Co.

A KING'S DIARY. By Percy White. The Cassell Publishing Company, New York: 1895. Pages 155. For sale by Hunter & Co.

This is a lively, interesting little story, to the perusal of which a few hours of leisure time may be most profitably appropriated. It begins with a confession of being in love and the retrospection of many of our readers doubtless run on all fours with this avowal of the author's experience. "Let me look at my life. I am outwardly the same man I was twenty years ago, but inwardly I have changed. I have brought with me the furniture of a mind that has grown old. I am never calm now, yet sometimes supremely happy at the memory of a look or a word of one woman. In these chambers, near these dusty books, with the view across the river to the morning of steam tugs, the whistle of locomotives always in my ears, for six years I have sat—idly, alas! most of the time—wondering what fate would bring me, and how I have brought it about. My tale is a love story, but it is a love story that I have met her twenty-five times. Reduced to time and stated arithmetically, that means I have spent about fifty hours in her society, and then I have brought her to me. I have read 'Maud's' three times lately, and now understand why Tennyson thought it his finest poem. For here am I moving in an enchanted land, where the air is sweetly dimly through my fairy casement—no doubt, in the wrong perspective—glimpses of the real world, of which, in spite of my vision, I still form a part. Yet so secret, so secret, that I have not a little element of doubt lest this be an ingenious state. No! I will not believe it. But 'quo me rapit Venus?' I will follow wherever she leads me.

The beautiful state of expectancy culminates in marriage, some unpleasantness with papa and mamma, a matrimonial altercation and estrangement, a wholehearted reconciliation, and then a pathetic and melancholy denouement. What is the reader most find out for himself, and until he does he must speculate what is the significance of the title of the book.

MARGARET WINTHROP. By Alice Maudsley. Charles Scribner's Sons: 1895. 12 mo. \$1.25. For sale by J. W. Randolph & Co.

This is one volume of Scribner's series of "Women of Colonial and Revolutionary Times." The aim of which is not only to present carefully-studied portraits of the most distinguished women of Colonial and Revolutionary times; but to offer as a background for these portraits the life of the country in which they lived, and the political and social life of the people in successive periods of national development.

The subject of this little biography was the wife of John Wintthrop, one of the earliest Governors of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay. She was the daughter of Sir John Tyndal, a master in chancery, in Essex county, England, who lost his life in the Revolution, and was a disappointed author, against whom the commissioner had made adverse reports, and who paid the penalty of his crime by hanging himself in his prison-cell six days after the murder.

She was a woman of some estate and of enviable social rank. Her husband was a country gentleman, and a sportsman, and a lawyer at the time of their marriage, enjoying a good practice in the courts of the city of London. They were earnest Puritans in faith and in practice, and to this fact may be attributed their subsequent emigration to New England. When they were married, in April, 1618, he was 31 years old and she was 27 years old. John Wintthrop emigrated to June 1629, and on the 20th of October, 1629, he was appointed Governor to succeed Matthew Craddock. He left his wife in England, but she joined him in his new-made American home in November, 1631, and it does not appear that either of them ever returned to England. She died in June, 1647, leaving her husband surviving. She was the mother of six children, four of whom left descendants, among whom have been many conspicuous men and women in America, and in Great Britain, among others, the late Lord Lyons, British Minister to the United States, and the present Duke of New Castle and Norfolk. The late Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, than whom no man of our day has been more universally respected by his countrymen, was a descendant of John Wintthrop, through one of his other wives.

The story of Mrs. Wintthrop's life, both in England and America, is told in this volume, with a loving correlation, and making all allowances for the color of view of a partial biographer, it is one which justly deserves to be preserved and perpetuated in American memory. We honor our New England brethren for the zealous care with which they have preserved the social and personal history of their colonial forebears; and we share with them the pleasure of reading their great Commonwealth. We only wish that our Virginia predecessors had been so careful of their own history, and that their descendants in hearing the manuscript records of our early history; and we earnestly sympathize with the pious office which has been assumed by our historical and antiquarian societies of gathering up now for dissemination and preservation the fragments that remain.

WILLIAM AND MARY COLLEGE QUARTERLY (October). Historical Magazine. Editor, Lyon O. Tyler, M. A., J. D., President of William and Mary College, Williamsburg, Virginia. Published by W. Whittey & Shepperson, General Printers.

Table of contents: Washington and His Neighbors (continued), giving interesting documents from the records of Westmoreland and Northumberland counties concerning Broadhurst, Bernard, Pope, Hardwick, Gerard, Lee, etc., by the editor. The Thornton Family, by W. G. Standard. Libraries in Colonial Virginia; selections from the records of Princess Anne county, by Edward W. James. The Smith of Virginia, I: Family of John Smith, of the Virginia Company, by John A. Smith. Letters—Colonel John Taylor to Edmund Pendleton; I. A. Coles to Henry St. George Tucker; Major John Pryor to the Virginia Council, 1676; John Rolfe to Anthony Wallis. Isle of Wight County—Papers relating to John Marshall and others, the case of John Jennings, the British Regiment, Burning of New Kent Court-house, and Prison, extract from the letters of John Augustine Smith. Original Letters—Colonel John Taylor to Edmund Pendleton; I. A. 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